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Message Text

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41
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 EUR-12 ACDA-07 /081 W
---------- 065631
O R 291123Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3751
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ML
SUBJ: MALIAN COMMENTS ON SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES AT MFA APRIL 28, SECRETARY GENERAL SEYDOU TRAORE TOLD CHARGE, IN VERY RELAXED FASHION, THAT HE HAD READ SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH AND HAD BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. THE TEN POINTS DELINEATING US POLICY ON RHODESIA WERE GOOD. HE STRONGLY HOPED THESE GOOD WORDS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY SPECIFIC ACTS.

2. THE US, SAID TRAORE, HAD ALWAYS BEEN TOO SLOW TO REACT TO AFRICAN POLITICS. THE DRIVE FOR

MAJORITY RULE WAS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACT OF LIFE IN AFRICA TODAY. WHY, HE SAID, HAD THE US BEEN SO SLOW TO REACT TO THIS? TALK ABOUT PEACE-FUL SOLUTIONS HAD ONLY ENCOURAGED THE WHITE MINOR-ITY REGIMES TO DIG IN THEIR HEELS. THE SOVIETS HAD
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PROVIDED ARMS--AT THE REQUEST OF THE LIBERATION

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MOVEMENTS--AND WOULD NATURALLY BE IN A FAVORABLE POSITION WHEN THOSE MOVEMENTS CAME TO POWER. ANGOLA WAS A CASE IN POINT.

3. TRAORE ADDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT DENYING MILITARY AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WAS A MISTAKE. EVEN IF THE US DID NOT INTEND TO SUPPLY THEM ARMS, IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO SAY SO. THE LEADERS OF THESE MOVEMENTS WOULD AT LEAST HOPE TO RECEIVE SUCH AID AND MIGHT TAKE MORE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO THE US. THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE OF THAT NOW, TRAORE ADDED.

4. CHARGE SAID THAT SECRETARY HAD NOT GONE TO AFRICA WITH READY-MADE AMERICAN PLAN FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA. INTENT HAD BEEN TO LISTEN AND LEARN. SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON RHODESIA HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT TO SEE THE RESULTS. AS TO VIEW THAT TIME FOR NEGOTIATIONS WAS PAST, CHARGE QUOTED SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT EVEN AFTER AN ARMED STRUGGLE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

5. TRAORE THANKED CHARGE FOR EARLY (CABLE) TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN FRENCH; CHARGE PROMISED TO SUPPLY COPIOUS QUANTITIES OF FINISHED FRENCH TEXT AS SOON AS THEY WERE RUN OFF BY EMBASSY.

6. COMMENT: TRAORE'S FREELY OFFERED COMMENTS ACCURATELY REFLECT MALIAN THINKING, OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE, ON US AFRICAN POLICY. BLUNTNESS IS A NATIONAL TRAIT IN MALI AND TRAORE'S COMMENTS ARE NOT UNUSUAL.
DAWKINS

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